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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

Washington, **DC** 20515-5501

July 6, 2009

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The Honorable Marlene H. Dortch Secretary Office of the Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20554

> Re: The Matter of Innovative Communication Corporation / National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, Transfer of Control and Assignment Applications (WC Docket No. 09-82)

Dear Secretary Dortch:

I write to express my support for approval of the transfer of control and assignments applications filed by the Chapter 11 trustee, on behalf of Innovative Communication Corporation ("New ICC"), and the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation ("CFC") in the above referenced docket on May 19, 2009.

I have a significant interest in these applications because ICC is the parent company of several telecommunications and cable television businesses based in the U.S. Virgin Islands, including: Virgin Islands Telephone Corporation ("Vitelco"), the incumbent local exchange carrier and one of the largest corporate employers in the Territory; Innovative Long Distance, Inc., a provider of long distance telecommunications services to and from the U.S. Virgin Islands; Vitelcom Cellular, Inc., a provider of wireless telecommunications services; and Caribbean Communications Corporation and St. Croix TV, Inc., the principal cable television operators in the U.S. Virgin Islands (collectively, "the Operating Subsidiaries").

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Grant of the applications is in the public interest because it will ensure continued and uninterrupted service by the principal providers of telecommunications and cable television service to my constituents. Vitelco, the carrier of last resort in the Territory, provides telecommunications services to over 61,000 access lines. Vitelcom Cellular provides Territory consumers with a variety of postpaid wireless calling plans, which represents a competitive alternative to the large wireless carriers that operate in the Virgin Islands. The two cable operators – one on St. Thomas and St. John and one on St. Croix – provide cable television service to over 28,000 subscribers of the Territory. Continued, reliable and uninterrupted service by these companies is critical to residents and businesses in the U.S. Virgin Islands. It is also critically important to the over two and a half million people that visit the Virgin Islands every year and, thus, to the economic stability of the Virgin Islands. Tourism accounts for seventy percent of the Territory's gross domestic product.

Grant of the applications will also promote public safety in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The wireline and wireless networks are critical to communications during times of emergency, particularly because the Territory is so vulnerable to hurricanes and tropical storms. Similarly, the cable systems disseminate important information to the viewing public during times of emergencies. It is essential that these companies continue to provide and improve disaster planning and recovery; CFC has made a commitment to take the operational steps necessary to minimize customer disruption and network restoration costs after future disasters.

As the Commission is aware, New ICC has been in Chapter 11 bankruptcy since September 2007. While the Operating Subsidiaries themselves are not in bankruptcy, the prospect of the continued bankruptcy of New ICC would cast a shadow of uncertainty over the Operating Subsidiaries and distract them from their primary mission—the provision of telecommunications services to my constituents. The acquisition by CFC represents a unique opportunity to facilitate resolution of New ICC's bankruptcy by providing the Operating Subsidiaries with a solvent and stable owner that has broad expertise with rural utilities. In addition, the acquisition will facilitate the Operating Subsidiaries' access to capital thereby promoting new investment, which will allow them to grow and maintain their core businesses for the benefit of U.S. Virgin Islands consumers, businesses and visitors.

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For the reasons set forth above, I ask that the Commission grant the transfer of control and assignments applications as expeditiously as possible. Please contact Angeline M. Jabbar in my office at (202) 226-7978, regarding this letter.

Sincerely

Doma M. Christensen Member of Congress